

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT

50X1-HUM

CD NO.

COUNTRY USSR

DATE DISTR. 30 Mar 1954

SUBJECT Operation of a Machine Tractor Station (MTS)

NO. OF PAGES 5

PLACE
ACQUIRED

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

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**SUPPLEMENT TO
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Background

1.

or tree shelterbelts on the 32 kolkhozy which [redacted] under its administration. Before the planting of these shelterbelts was started, a major percentage of crop yields were lost due to the devastating southeast winds which begin about the first of June and blow continuously day and night for three or four weeks. As a result the ground would become completely dried out to a depth of 20 cm, causing it to crack open, thereby exposing the roots to the air and killing the crop. Tree shelterbelts were planted in rows 20 meters wide running north and south and 10 meters wide running east and west. The distance between rows would average two and one half kilometers east and west and five kilometers north and south. The rows were graduated so that you had low bushes (usually acacia) at the outer edge, then small trees (usually poplar), and in the center tall trees (usually oak), then the poplar again and lastly the acacia bushes.



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Location and Function

2. The MTS was located five kms north of Voznesensk, Ukraine, and covered an area of about 100-150 acres. The MTS was responsible for maintenance of all farm machinery used on the 32 kolkhozy under its jurisdiction. Minor repairs to farm machinery were made on the individual kolkhozy during the summer season, but in the fall every piece of equipment was brought to the MTS for complete overhaul.

Equipment

3. The MTS maintained service on some 120 tractors. Of these about 20 were large caterpillar tractors, manufactured by the Chelyabinsk Factory (Челябинский) and the balance were of the spiked wheel variety manufactured by the Kharkov Tractor Factory (Харьковский). In addition, repair work was done on plows, combines and other farm machinery.
4. The MTS had for its own use about 30 one and one half ton trucks which were manufactured by GAZ (Gorki Automobile Factory) and 10 five-ton trucks manufactured by ZIS (Stalin Factory) in Gorki. In addition, each kolkhoz had its own trucks.
5. The MTS had two automobiles, one for the director and one for the chief agronomist and the political worker. Other supervisors had only horses and small carts, about 10 horses being maintained for this purpose. There appeared to be an unlimited supply of tools and equipment.

Personnel

6. The MTS employed about 600 Ukrainians all of whom lived in Voznesensk. They worked on a year 'round basis, eight hours a day, six days a week. No transportation was provided for the workers and they either walked or rode bicycles over a narrow dirt road which, during the rainy season, was a sea of deep mud.

Organization

7. [] indicated on the organizational chart (see sketch I) the administration of the MTS. The MTS and the 32 kolkhozy were under the supervision of the Director. Under him were three assistants:
 - a) Chief Agronomist. He was in charge of all the crops grown on the 32 kolkhozy. Under him was one assistant in charge of wheat, one in charge of corn, one in charge of trees, etc.
 - b) Chief Technical man. He was in charge of all the farm machinery, but had under him one man in charge of tractors, one in charge of plows, one in charge of combines, etc.
 - c) Political Worker. He made visits to each of the 32 kolkhozy and during the 10 minute rest period after the workers had finished their lunch he would read from the newspaper items about what was going on in the USSR as well as other parts of the world. It was not unusual for him to make such a statement as "You can see how fortunate you are here in Russia where your children can receive free education. In the 'capitalist countries' only the very rich can afford to send their children to school". In addition, he had assistants stationed in each of the 32 kolkhozy to keep an eye on the workers, listen to their conversations and report any suspicious remarks to him.

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8. [redacted] two of the MTS personnel:

a) Comrade Brand. He was Director of the MTS. Although he had a German name, he never spoke German, nor would he admit he was a German.

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b) Mr. (Iuu) Horun. He was Chief Agronomist.

Layout of MTS

9. [redacted] located on the attached sketch (see sketch II) the plan of the MTS, the numbers below corresponding to those on the sketch.

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1) This was a red brick building containing two rooms:

a) This was the larger of the two rooms and had a stage at one end where movies were shown and where plays, either brought from Vosnesensk or produced by station workers, were occasionally presented.

b) This was a smaller room where the Director, his assistants and kolkhozy chairmen met to discuss the quotas, set by the Government in Moscow, which must be met during the coming season.

2) A concrete block building with a grey tile roof which contained a laboratory where three or four men were constantly testing soil, experimenting with various fertilizers, etc.

3) This building was constructed of concrete block, with a grey tile roof, and contained the following:

a) This section was divided into four separate rooms. One entered a reception room, which had behind it a club room for kolkhozy chairmen. To the right of the door was the office of the Chief Agronomist and behind that his own small laboratory.

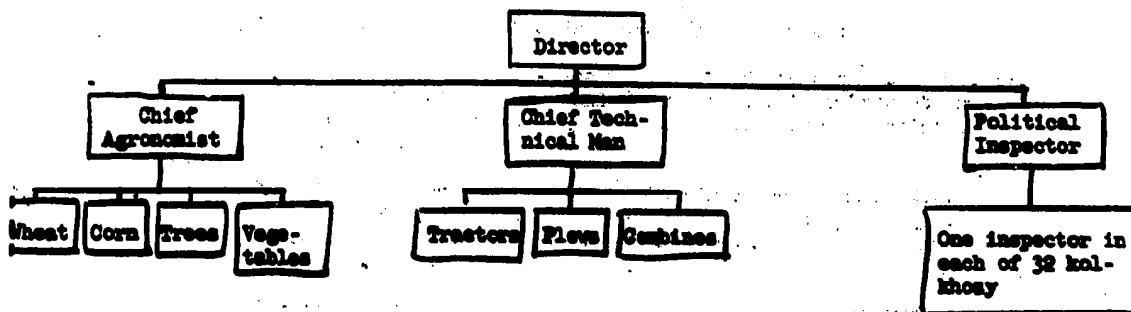
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- b) Office of the Political Worker and the Director's secretary.
- c) Office of the Director of the MTS.
- 4) A large red brick warehouse with large wooden doors opening onto a loading platform which ran along the entire front of the building. It housed all the parts necessary to repair the various farm machines.
- 5) A large red brick building with a red tile roof and wooden doors along the front, containing:
 - a) Garage for tractors
 - b) Stock room for small parts and tools.
 - c) Shop where all repair work was done.
- 6) Fuel station from which gasoline, oil and grease were supplied to the machinery of the MTS and the 32 kolkhozy. There were underground tanks here as well as above ground.
- 7) A large wooden shelter where combines, plows and other farm machinery were kept.

Sketch I

(see next page for Sketch II)

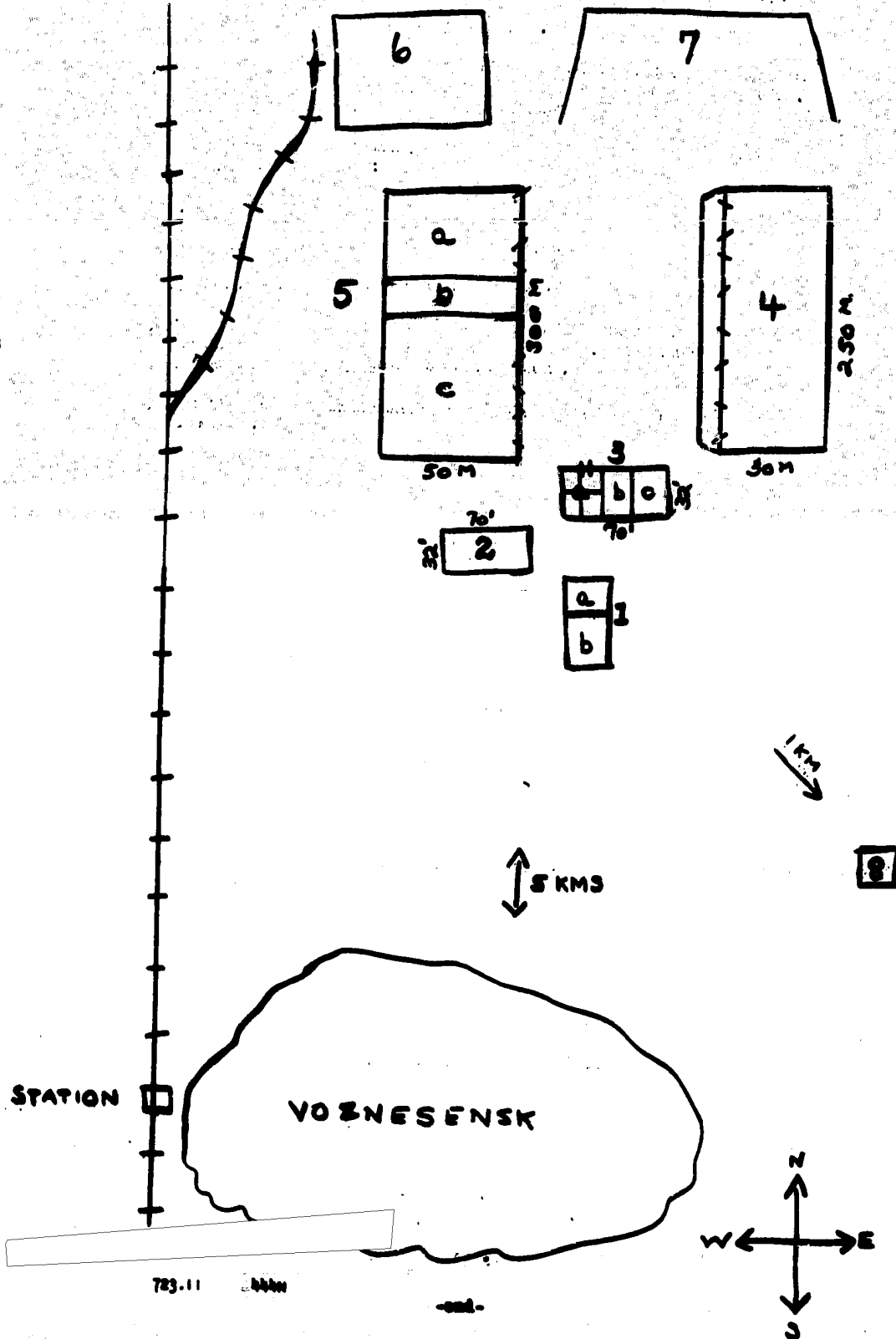
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SKETCH II



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